

and the reality is 1,000 jobs. Who are we kidding? The American people are getting used to the fact that there is a lot of rhetoric on the one hand and no followup on the other. That was true in the No Child Left Behind Act, and it is apparently true about our trip to Mars.

Did you see the rollout of the President talking about going to Mars, and there was no mention of it in the State of the Union Address. The best estimates are it will cost a trillion dollars and they are allocating \$5 billion. Get the political hit and then forget about it. That is also what happened with No Child Left Behind. That we cannot get an extension on unemployment compensation, when the economy is creating only 1,000 jobs, and they estimated over 300,000, makes the point. Those hard-working Americans who paid into the unemployment compensation fund, which is in surplus at the present time, should be able to get the extension of 13 weeks.

Third is the overtime issue. We have seen who that affects. It affects basically the policemen and firefighters and nurses—some 8 million Americans. And included in the recommendations, as I pointed out, for the first time, it will say if a veteran had certain kinds of training in the military, which may very well have been the reason he went into the service—obviously, the underlying reason is because he or she wanted to serve their country. But the idea that you are going to get a skill is attractive, too. You can get education benefits, which is attractive, too. That makes a difference in recruitment. We have seen it. I know about it. I am on the Armed Services Committee. We know we are falling further behind and not meeting our recruiting goals in the National Guard by 10,000 this year. We know we are offering any of the soldiers over in Iraq a bonus of \$10,000 if they reenlist over there. So we know we have these challenges.

Now for the first time they are prohibiting overtime, not only for those I just mentioned, but the rule, as I read into the RECORD, includes—these are the exact words, Mr. President:

Under the Bush plan, veterans who have received training in the military that is equivalent to a specialized 4-year degree could be classified as exempt "professional employees" and lose their overtime protection.

There is a whole list of training programs. Obviously, we have new technology. Our military is the best in the world. We have new technology, new training programs. People go into the military and get the training. They serve our country and risk their lives to protect our Nation. They come back from Iraq and get a job, but no, no, you don't get overtime.

Why did they put in that provision? It is interesting. In looking over the comments of different groups about overtime, there is one particular company, a major defense company, which commented on the Bush proposal saying that their company observes that many of its most skilled technical

workers received a significant portion of their knowledge and training outside the university classroom, typically in a branch of the military service.

There you go. So they add, we will include the American military veterans in banning them from receiving overtime. People wonder why workers are discouraged, overworked, they can't get decent pay, they can't get benefits. They have seen their jobs outsourced. They are seeing their jobs sent overseas. Their pension programs are in jeopardy. Their security in the job place is very much threatened.

We ought to be thinking about what we can do for families. There are a series of steps we can take. Certainly increasing the minimum wage, extending unemployment compensation, and making sure these workers receive overtime is just a bare minimum.

I look forward to the debate on those issues. This is really a part of a whole concept, and that is the condition of workers in this country. We didn't even begin to get into the workers' payment of prescription drugs, which has been escalating out of sight. The bill that passed some weeks ago, and the prohibition written into that bill, again behind closed doors, prohibits Medicare from bargaining for bulk-rate purchasing of prescription drugs that would give some advantage and protection for our seniors. That has affected the quality of life for working family members who retire and are on Social Security and pay much higher prescription drug prices.

I didn't mention that impact and what is happening to working families. I haven't mentioned the extraordinary escalation of the cost of health care. I was rolling over in my mind the answer by the administration to the escalation of health care costs. The one answer that was given in the State of the Union Address was malpractice insurance is going to solve this problem. Come on.

We are at the present time spending close to 15 percent of our gross national product on health care, more than \$5,000 for every man, woman, and child. Thirty cents out of every dollar is a nonclinical dollar. Most industries are down 17, 18 percent. If we reduce the 30 cents to 27 cents, we save \$50 billion a year. If we reduce it to 20 cents, we save \$100 billion a year. We can do a lot with \$100 billion. There are ways of doing that. Do you think we can do that?

We will have an opportunity to debate those issues. I welcome the fact the majority leader says health care and health insurance will be on the floor because we will have an opportunity to get a meaningful result. It may not be the kind of program the pharmaceutical industry supports, and it may not be the program the insurance industry supports, but, by God, it will be a program the average family and the working families of this country will support, and it will make a difference in their lives and in their families' lives.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVISTS AND NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, in a CNN program last night they asked the question: "Do you believe reservists and members of the National Guard are treated fairly by the Army?" This was just about the time I turned on the CNN program. You could indicate before the end of the program what your vote would be.

It is extraordinary. This is a CNN quick vote. It is not guaranteed science, but it is a reaction, certainly by those who watch CNN: "Do you believe reservists and members of the National Guard are being treated fairly by the Army?"

Yes, 15 percent; no, 85 percent. No, 85 percent. It seems to me we have a lot with which to be concerned. We talk about our state of the Union. We talk about our National Guard. We talk about working families. The National Guard are the working families, and the reservists are the working families. They are patriotic men and women.

I am so proud of those from my own State. I have met with them frequently. We have lost 18 servicemen from Massachusetts. We value every one in their service to our country, their bravery, heroism, and devotion. The Guard ought to be treated fairly by this country and the military.

We have a lot of work to do in this session.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PENSION FUNDING EQUITY ACT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I do want to talk a little bit this morning about the pension bill, which is the current bill we are considering. I am sure all of us can remember our first jobs when we came home with our first paycheck, anxious to spend it, and if our parents happened to be around they gave some advice and suggestions for us. First, they probably suggested we figure out where we were going and, secondly, that we put something away. If it was